



**PRESS RELEASE  
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## Assembly One House Bill Includes \$35 Million for Empire State After-School Program

Twenty two thousand children in New York State are one-step closer to participating in high quality afterschool programs thanks to the New York State Assembly's budget bill that includes funding for the Empire State After-School Program.

Hopeful students and families received the good news on Monday, 3/14 when the Assembly released its budget bill which included the \$35 million for the Empire State After-School program, though with slight modifications to the original proposal. Governor Cuomo had proposed this program in his executive budget in January. In addition to adding 22,000 new afterschool spots for youth across New York State, the Empire State After-School program would also create over 2,000 new jobs for front line staff in the afterschool programs. The news was not all good though, the Senate budget bill stripped the \$35 million for the Empire State After-School program making the path to a final budget less certain.

Another bright spot for thousands of children and families came in the form of Advantage After School funding. Both the Assembly and Senate bills propose the restoration of \$5 million that will allow Advantage programs to continue serving the estimated 5,000 students who were at risk of losing their program without this restoration.

"We thank the Assembly and Senate for including a critical restoration to the Advantage After School Program in their budget bills," said Kelly Sturgis, Executive Director of the New York State Network for Youth Success. "However, the Senate's rejection of the new \$35 million Empire State After-School Program would prevent New York from making valuable progress in expanding critical afterschool programming to 22,000 additional New York students. This funding must be included in the final budget."

The Network for Youth Success is seeking \$32.8 million for the Advantage After School Program. \$32.8 million would be an increase of \$10.5 million over the FY16-17 funding level, and would increase the total number served by Advantage After School to 20,000 students, the peak number funded in 2007-08.

The Network for Youth Success thanks Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Children and Families Committee Chair Eileen Jaffe, and Education Chair Catherine Nolan for their leadership in providing needed funding for programs that support New York's children and families. This investment will help the 16,000 youth currently in Advantage After School Programs and their working parents who rely on these programs, but does nothing to help the 1.1 million children still in need of afterschool programs statewide, according to the America After 3pm 2014 survey by Afterschool Alliance.

The Senate IDC also included an additional \$10 million in their budget resolution to the Senate one house bill.

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**Empower Youth Success**

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